STAR comics
THE SECRET LIFE OF...
TOP DOG
TM
65¢
6
FEB
02545
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL
HATE JOEY!
LOVE MELVIN!
TOP DOG'S MIND IS TURNED AROUND BY..
"FRANK 'N' STEIN"
(OR ARE THEY STEIN 'N' FRAN...)
W. KREMER

TOP DOG™ VS FRANK'N STEIN

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INKER . LETTERER
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EXECUTIVE EDITOR . EDITOR IN CHIEF

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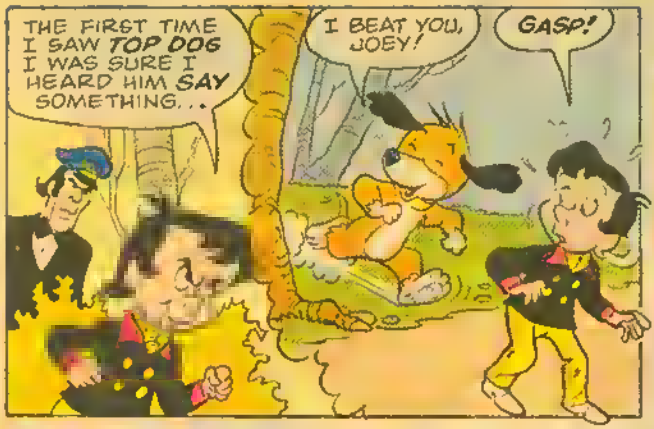
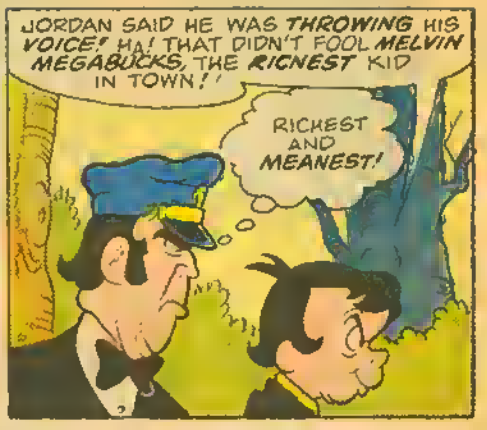
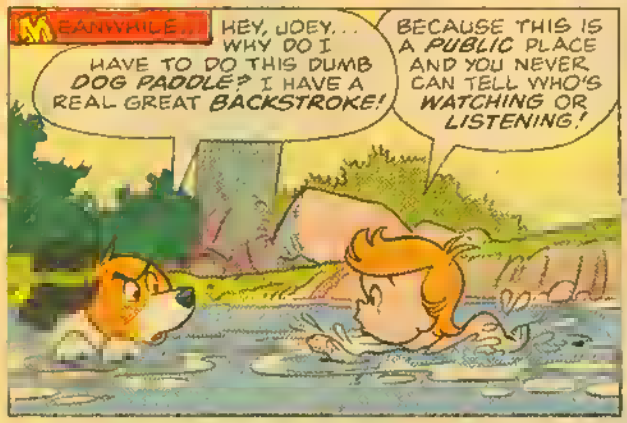
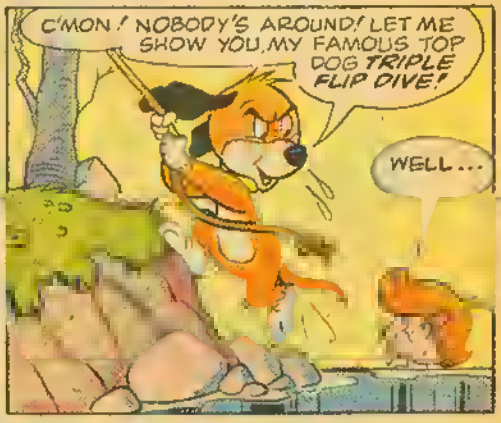
TOP DOG™, Vol. 1, No. 6, February, 1985. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1985 Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. STAR COMICS is a trademark of the Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. Price 65¢ per copy in the U.S. and 75¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $7.80 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $9.80. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. TOP DOG (including all prominent characters featured in the issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO TOP DOG, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

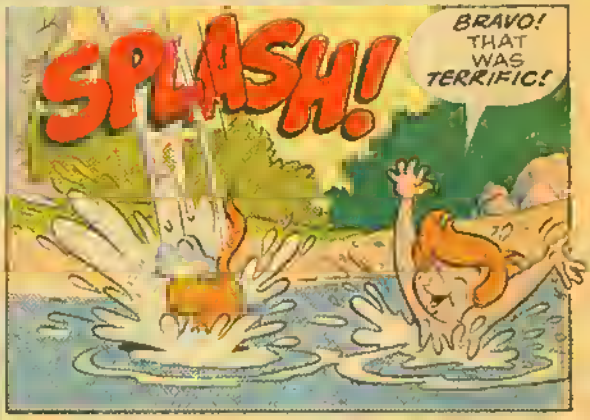

THE FIRST TIME I SAW TOP DOG I WAS SURE I HEARD HIM SAY SOMETHING...
I BEAT YOU, JOEY!
GASP!


JORDAN SAID HE WAS THROWING HIS VOICE! HA! THAT DIDN'T FOOL MELVIN MEGABUCKS, THE RICHEST KID IN TOWN!
RICHEST AND MEANEST!


MEANWHILE...
HEY, JOEY... WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS DUMB DOG PADDLE? I HAVE A REAL GREAT BACKSTROKE!
BECAUSE THIS IS A PUBLIC PLACE AND YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHO'S WATCHING OR LISTENING!

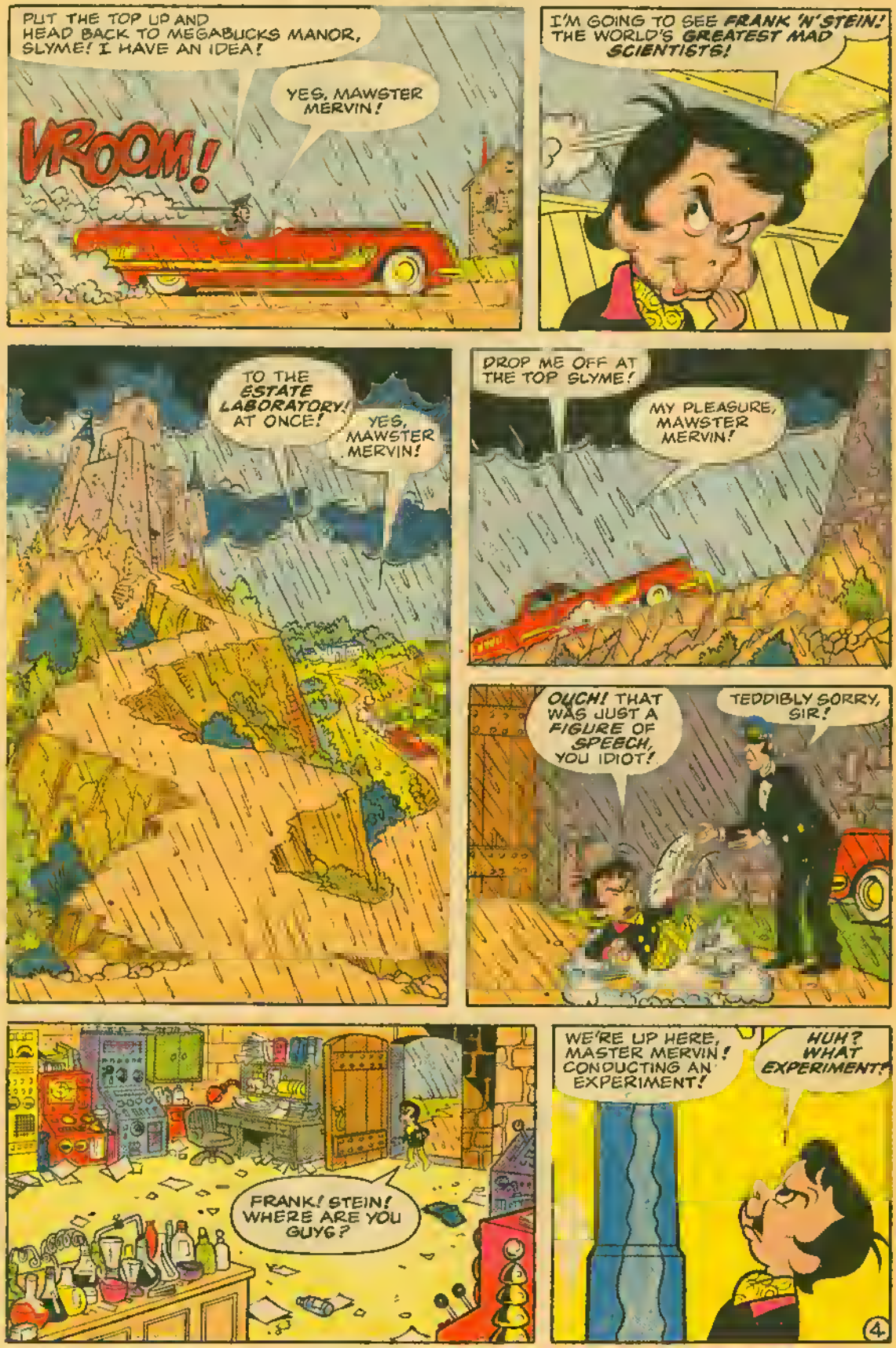

C'MON! NOBODY'S AROUND! LET ME SHOW YOU, MY FAMOUS TOP DOG TRIPLE FLIP DIVE!
WELL...

FLIP!
FLIP!
FLIP!

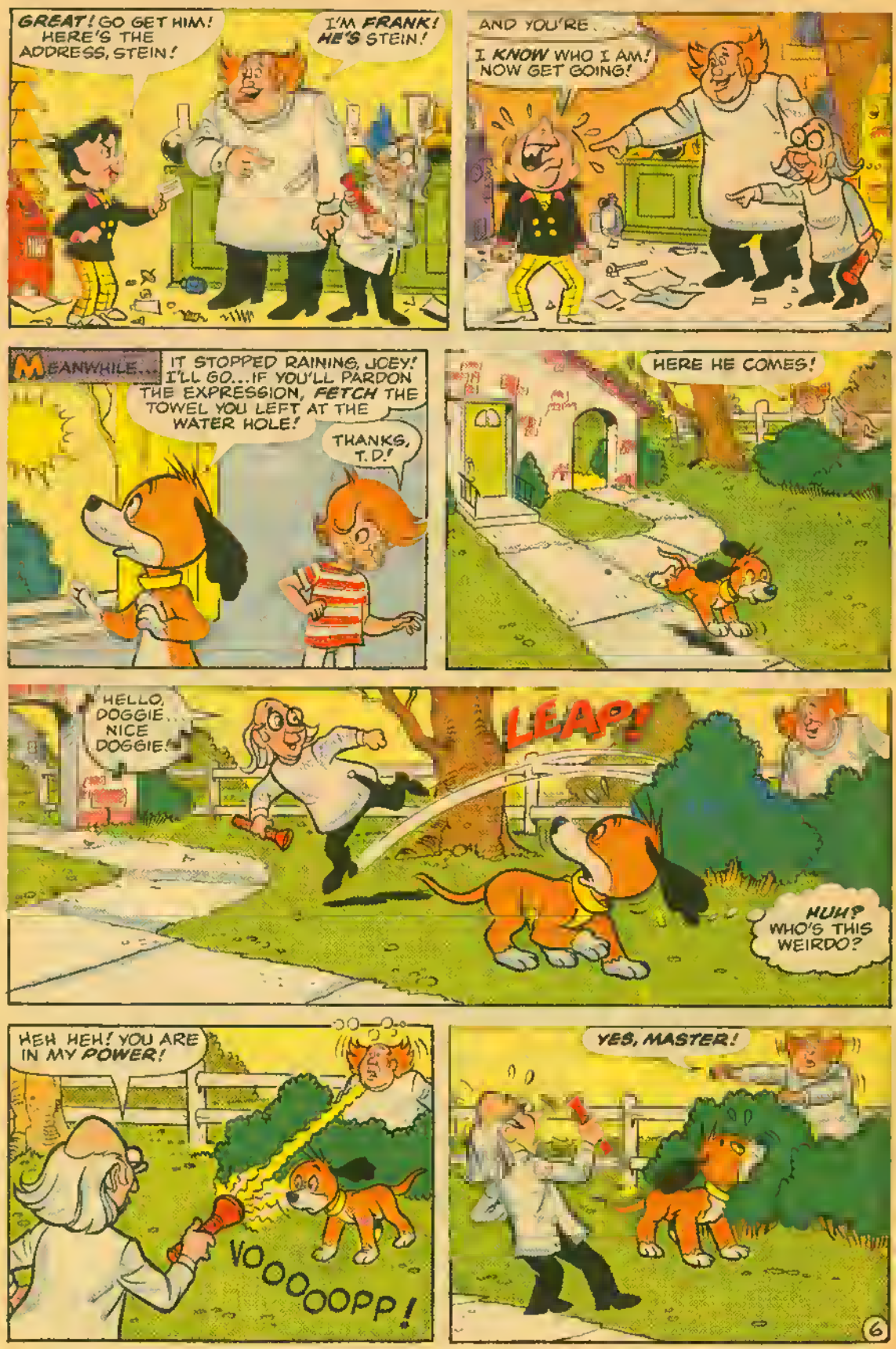

SPLASH!
BRAVO! THAT WAS TERRIFIC!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, MY FAN CLUB! I SHALL TAKE A BOW!!
2

DID YOU SAY, "A BOW," TOP DOG?
MERVIN!
A BOW...A BOW WOW. BOW WOW! BOW WOW! BOW WOW!
BOW WOW! BOW WOW!
NICE TRY, TOP DOG, BUT, I KNOW YOU CAN TALK!
THAT'S DUMB, MERVIN!
I WANT YOUR TALKING DOG, JORDAN! NAME YOUR PRICE!
SORRY, MERVIN... TOP DOG IS NOT FOR SALE!
SUPPOSE HE WANTED TO COME LIVE WITH ME...OF HIS OWN FREE WILL?
I'D NEVER STAND IN TOP DOG'S WAY IF HE WANTED TO LEAVE ME!
ME? WILLINGLY LIVE WITH MERVIN? I'D RATHER HAVE SABRE-TOOTHED FLEAS!
LET'S GO, T.R.! IT'S STARTING TO RAIN!
HEH, HEH! BYE, JORDAN! BOW WOW, TOP DOG!
WE LEFT SO FAST, I FORGOT MY TOWEL! THAT MERVIN MAKES ME SO NERVOUS!
DON'T WORRY, JOEY! I'D NEVER LEAVE YOU FOR THAT CREEP!
3


PUT THE TOP UP AND HEAD BACK TO MEGABUCKS MANOR, SLYME! I HAVE AN IDEA!
YES, MAWSTER MERVIN!
VROOM!
I'M GOING TO SEE FRANK 'N' STEIN! THE WORLD'S GREATEST MAD SCIENTISTS!
TO THE ESTATE LABORATORY! AT ONCE!
YES, MAWSTER MERVIN!
DROP ME OFF AT THE TOP SLYME!
MY PLEASURE, MAWSTER MERVIN!
OUCH! THAT WAS JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH, YOU IDIOT!
TEDDIBLY SORRY, SIR!
FRANK! STEIN! WHERE ARE YOU GUYS?
WE'RE UP HERE, MASTER MERVIN! CONDUCTING AN EXPERIMENT!
HUH? WHAT EXPERIMENT?
4

WE'RE FLYING A KITE WITH A KEY ATTACHED!
YES! WE'RE GOING TO PROVE LIGHTNING IS ELECTRICITY!
ZAPPO!
CRACKLE!
SPARK!
HOORAY! IT WORKED! LIGHTNING IS ELECTRICITY!
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS BUT BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DID THAT EXPERIMENT MORE THAN 200 YEARS AGO!
HE DID? THE COPYCAT!
STEALING OUR IDEA!
NOW LISTEN HERE, FRANK...
I'M STEIN...HE'S FRANK!
AND YOU'RE MASTER MERVIN!
NOW CUT THAT OUT!
I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU! I WANT JOEY JORDAN'S DOG TO COME LIVE WITH ME OF HIS OWN FREE WILL!
NOW WHAT CAN YOU DO TO FORCE HIM TO COME HERE OF HIS OWN FREE WILL??
SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR OUR HYPNO BEAM!
RIGHT!


GREAT! GO GET HIM! HERE'S THE ADDRESS, STEIN!
I'M FRANK! HE'S STEIN!
AND YOU'RE...
I KNOW WHO I AM! NOW GET GOING!
MEANWHILE...
IT STOPPED RAINING, JOEY! I'LL GO...IF YOU'LL PARDON THE EXPRESSION, FETCH THE TOWEL YOU LEFT AT THE WATER HOLE!
THANKS, T.D.!
HERE HE COMES!
HELLO, DOGGIE... NICE DOGGIE!
LEAP!
HUH? WHO'S THIS WEIRDO?
HEH HEH! YOU ARE IN MY POWER!
VOOOOOPP!
YES, MASTER!
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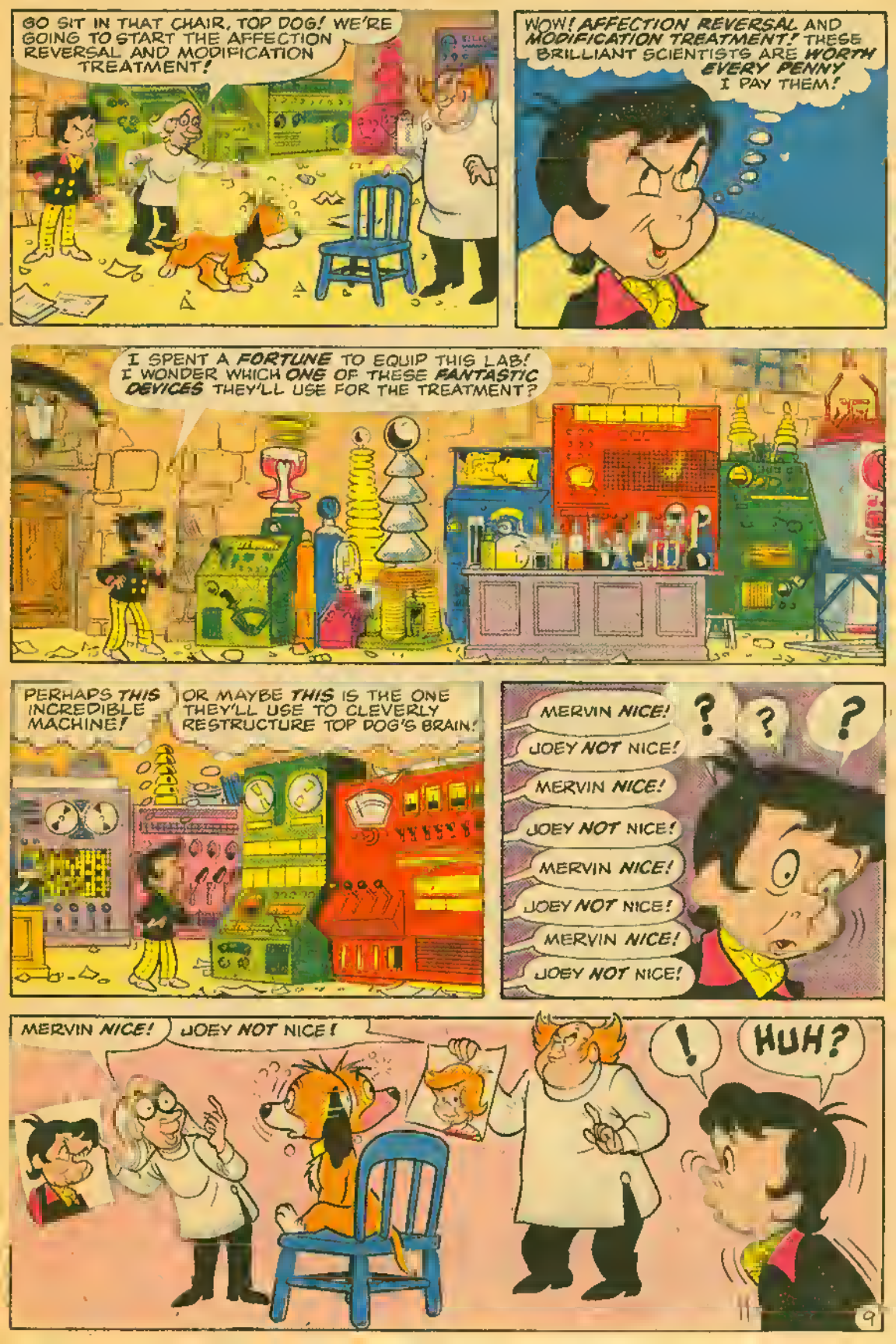
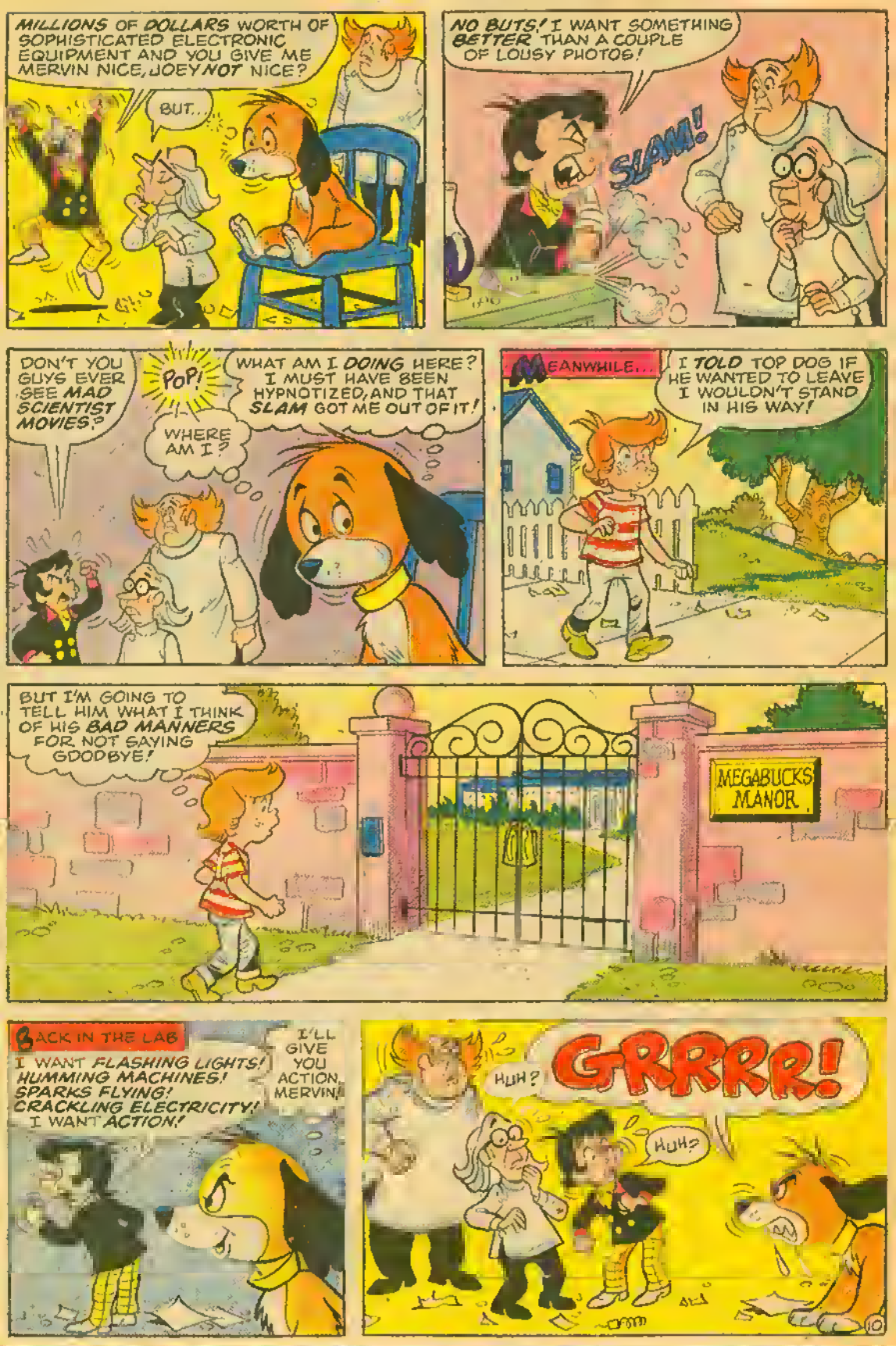
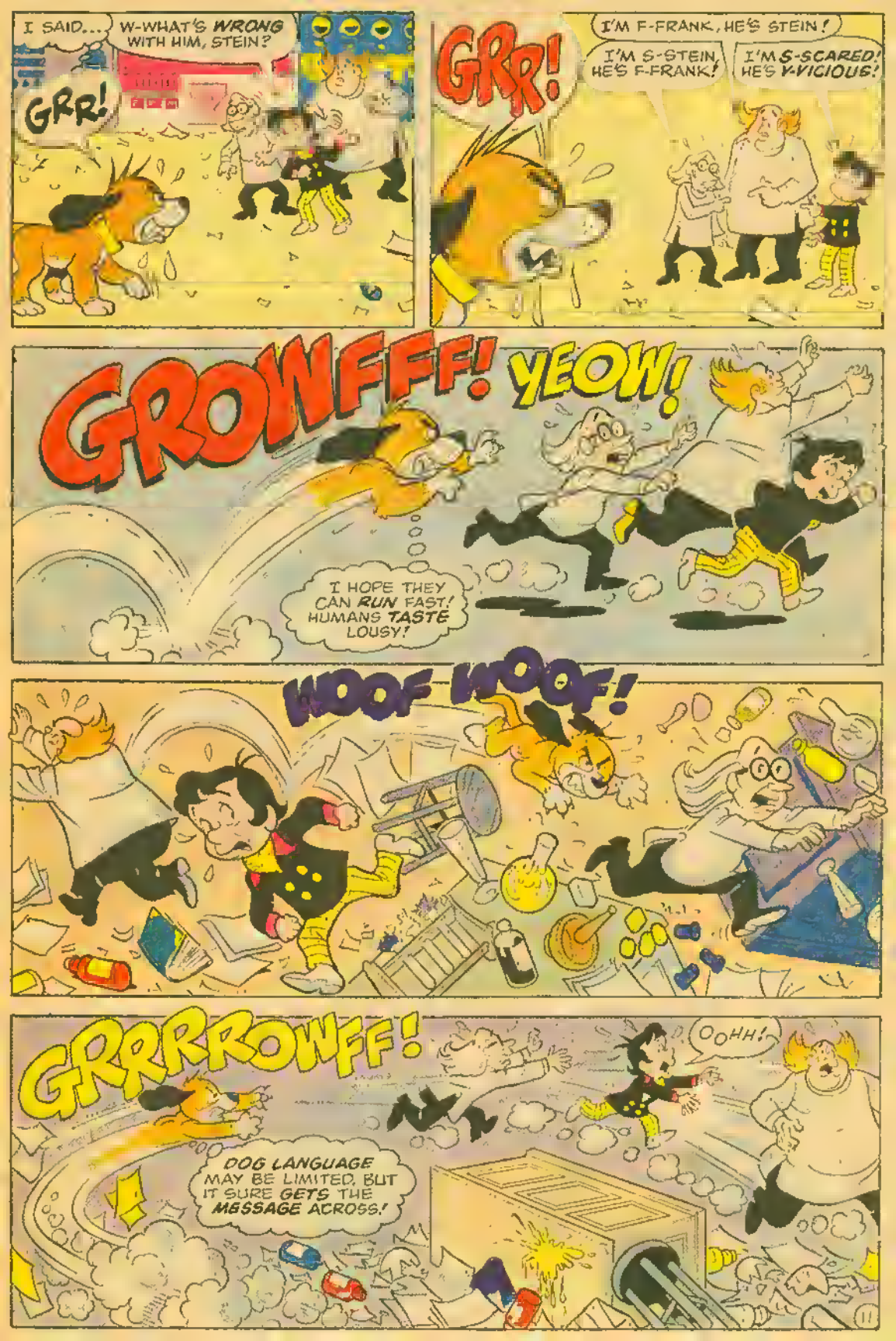
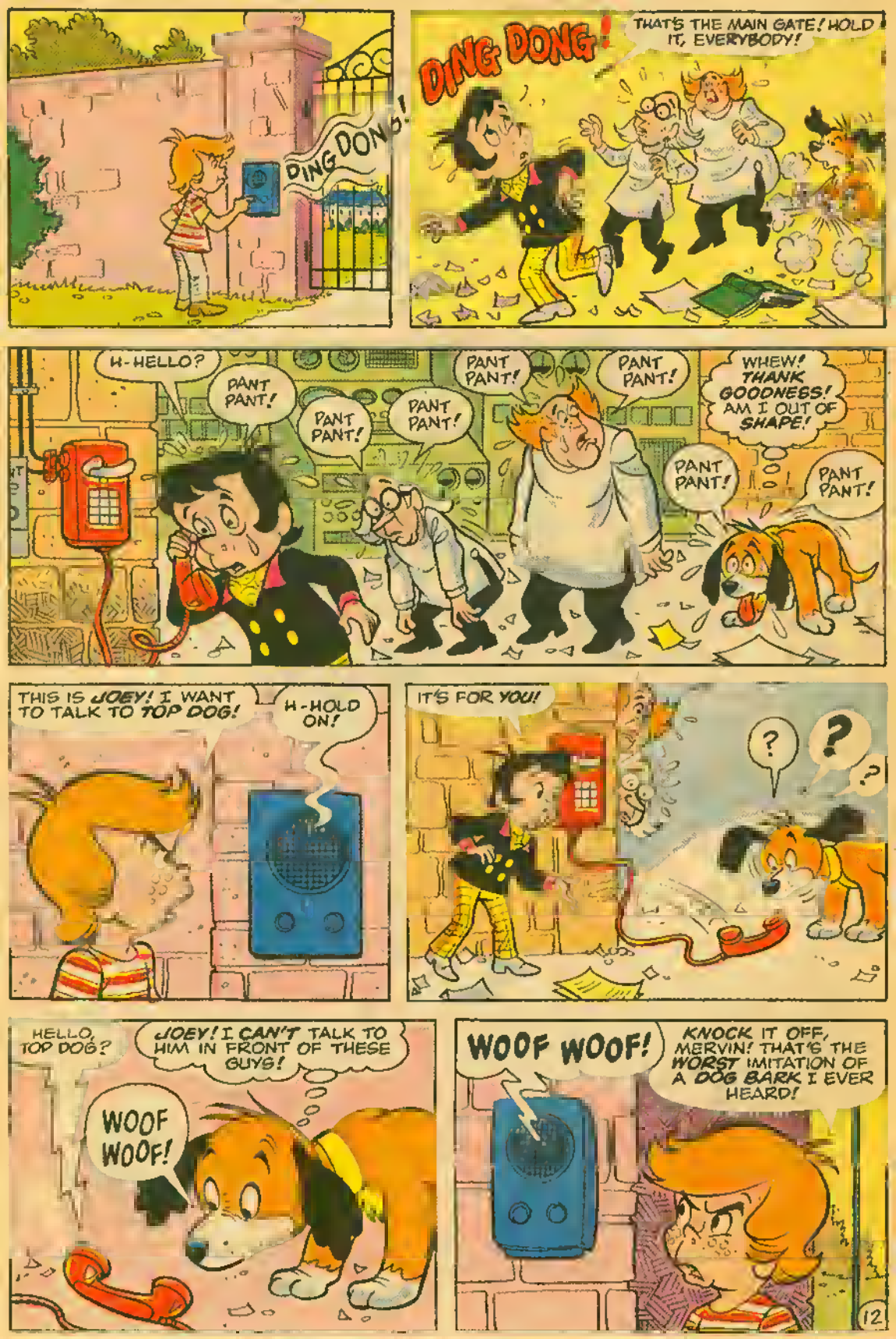
CONTINUED IN THIS ISSUE...

TOP DOG
FRANK STEIN
PART 2
"LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE"
YOU DID IT, FRANK! YOU BROUGHT ME TOP DOG!
I'M STEIN! HE'S FRANK!
I'M FRANK! HE'S STEIN!
AND THAT'S TOP DOG!
I KNOW! I KNOW!
HEEEE!
I HAVE A TALKING DOG! I HAVE A TALKING DOG!
WE HAVE A NUTTY BOSS! WE HAVE A NUTTY BOSS!
NOW, I WANT HIM TO FORGET JOEY JORDAN AND LOVE ME!
WILL DO, MASTER MERVIN! LET'S GO INSIDE THE LAB!
ONCE TOP DOG LOVES ME, HE'LL TALK TO ME JUST LIKE HE TALKS TO JORDAN!


GO SIT IN THAT CHAIR, TOP DOG! WE'RE GOING TO START THE AFFECTION REVERSAL AND MODIFICATION TREATMENT!
WOW! AFFECTION REVERSAL AND MODIFICATION TREATMENT! THESE BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS ARE WORTH EVERY PENNY I PAY THEM!
I SPENT A FORTUNE TO EQUIP THIS LAB! I WONDER WHICH ONE OF THESE FANTASTIC DEVICES THEY'LL USE FOR THE TREATMENT?
PERHAPS THIS INCREDIBLE MACHINE!
OR MAYBE THIS IS THE ONE THEY'LL USE TO CLEVERLY RESTRUCTURE TOP DOG'S BRAIN!
MERVIN NICE!
JOEY NOT NICE!
MERVIN NICE!
JOEY NOT NICE!
MERVIN NICE!
JOEY NOT NICE!
MERVIN NICE!
JOEY NOT NICE!
? ? ?
MERVIN NICE!
JOEY NOT NICE!
! HUH?


MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND YOU GIVE ME MERVIN NICE, JOEY NOT NICE?
BUT...
NO BUTS! I WANT SOMETHING BETTER THAN A COUPLE OF LOUSY PHOTOS!
SLAM!
DON'T YOU GUYS EVER SEE MAD SCIENTIST MOVIES?
POP!
WHERE AM I?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I MUST HAVE BEEN HYPNOTIZED, AND THAT SLAM GOT ME OUT OF IT!
MEANWHILE...
I TOLD TOP DOG IF HE WANTED TO LEAVE I WOULDN'T STAND IN HIS WAY!
BUT I'M GOING TO TELL HIM WHAT I THINK OF HIS BAD MANNERS FOR NOT SAYING GOODBYE!
MEGABUCKS MANOR
BACK IN THE LAB
I WANT FLASHING LIGHTS! HUMMING MACHINES! SPARKS FLYING! CRACKLING ELECTRICITY! I WANT ACTION!
I'LL GIVE YOU ACTION, MERVIN!
HUH?
GRRRR!
HUH?


I SAID...
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM, STEIN?
GRR!
GRR!
I'M F-FRANK, HE'S STEIN!
I'M S-STEIN, HE'S F-FRANK!
I'M S-SCARED! HE'S V-VICIOUS!
GROWFFF!
YEOW!
I HOPE THEY CAN RUN FAST! HUMANS TASTE LOUSY!
WOOF WOOF!
GRRRROWFF!
OOHH!
DOG LANGUAGE MAY BE LIMITED, BUT IT SURE GETS THE MESSAGE ACROSS!


DING DONG!
DING DONG!
THAT'S THE MAIN GATE! HOLD IT, EVERYBODY!
H-HELLO?
PANT PANT!
PANT PANT!
PANT PANT!
PANT PANT!
PANT PANT!
PANT PANT!
PANT PANT!
WHEW! THANK GOODNESS! AM I OUT OF SHAPE!
THIS IS JOEY! I WANT TO TALK TO TOP DOG!
H-HOLD ON!
IT'S FOR YOU!
?
?
?
HELLO, TOP DOG?
JOEY! I CAN'T TALK TO HIM IN FRONT OF THESE GUYS!
WOOF WOOF!
WOOF WOOF!
KNOCK IT OFF, MERVIN! THAT'S THE WORST IMITATION OF A DOG BARK I EVER HEARD!

IT'S ME, JOEY!
WOOF WOOF!
ALL RIGHT, MERVIN! IF TOP DOG OOESN'T WANT TO TALK TO ME IT'S OKAY WITH ME!
FRONT GATE
JOEY! HELP! COME GET YOUR DOG! I DON'T WANT HIM ANYMORE!
WAY TO GO, MERVIN!
WE'RE AT THE ESTATE LAB! ON TOP OF MEGABUCKS MOUNTAIN!
NOW LET'S SEE! WHERE WERE WE? OH, YES...
WROOF
AAARGH!
WORST IMITATION OF A DOG, EH, JOEY? TELL ME ABOUT IT!
QUICKLY, MASTER MERVIN! CLIMB UP ON THIS PLATFORM!
I'M STEIN! HE'S MERVIN!
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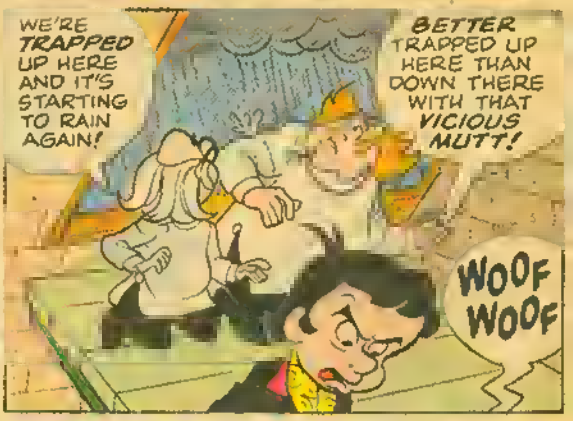
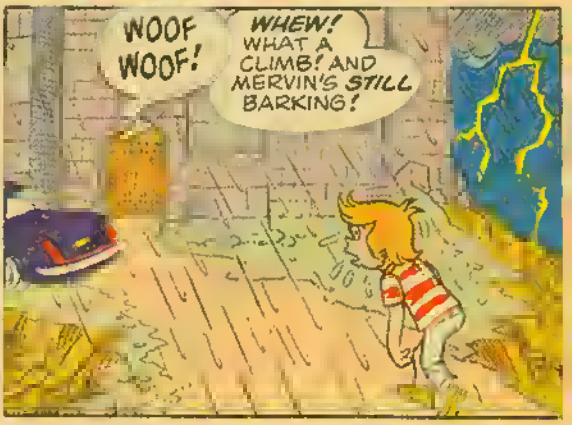
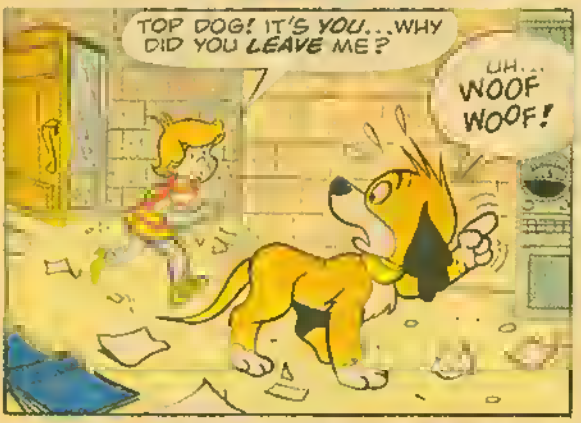
THANK GOODNESS!
WOOF WOOF

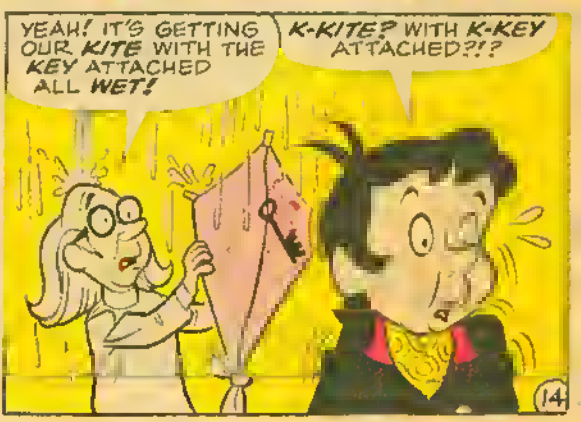

WE'RE TRAPPED UP HERE AND IT'S STARTING TO RAIN AGAIN!
BETTER TRAPPED UP HERE THAN DOWN THERE WITH THAT VICIOUS MUTT!
WOOF WOOF


WOOF WOOF!
WHEW! WHAT A CLIMB! AND MERVIN'S STILL BARKING!


TOP DOG! IT'S YOU...WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME?
UH... WOOF WOOF!

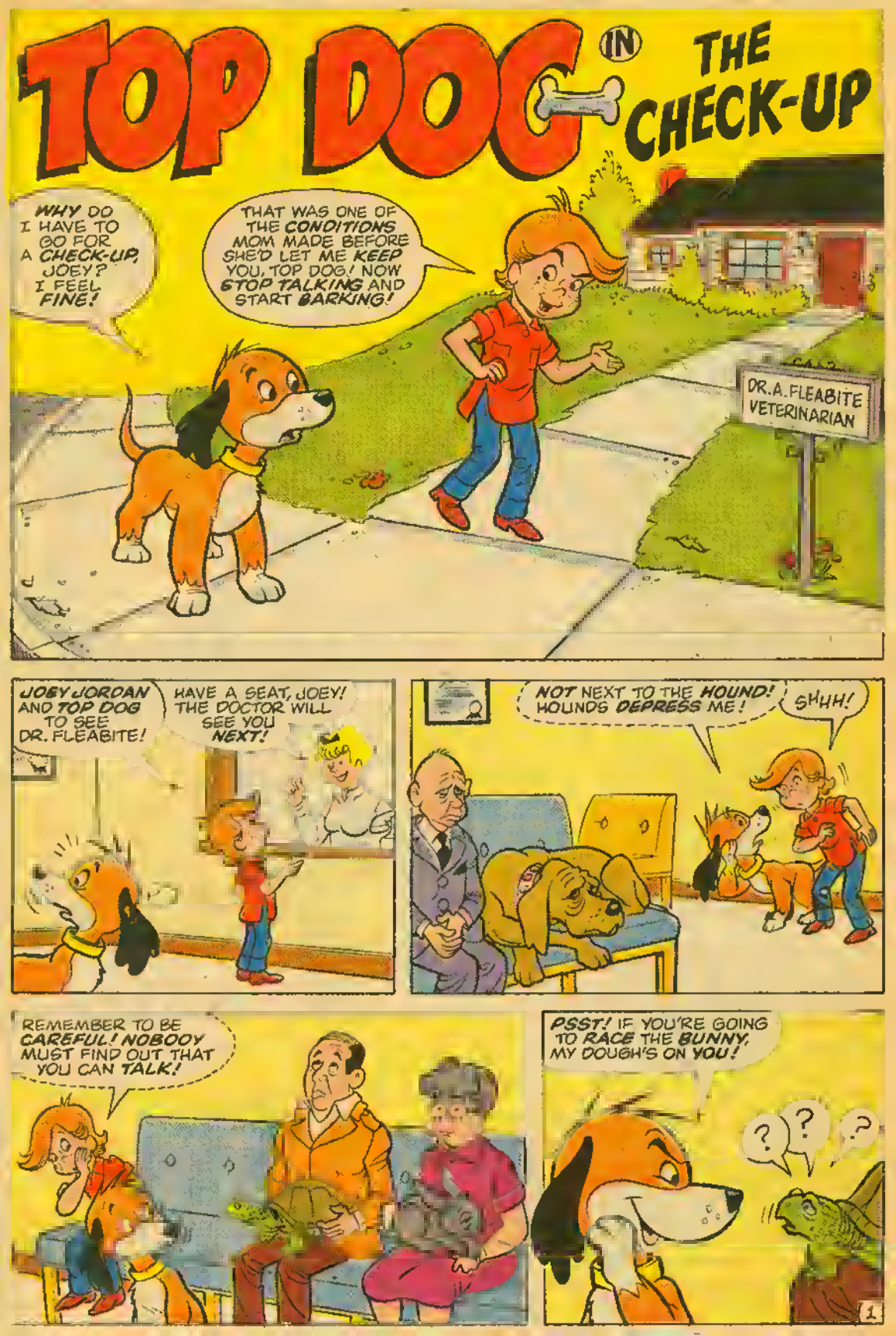
NEVER MIND THAT WOOF WOOF STUFF! NOBODY'S AROUND! JUST TALK TO ME AND TELL ME WHY YOU DIDN'T EVEN SAY GOOD-BYE!
WOOF WOOF!

HEY, JORDAN! TAKE THAT MEAN MUTT OF YOURS HOME SO WE CAN COME DOWN! IT'S RAINING ON US!
OH!


YEAH! IT'S GETTING OUR KITE WITH THE KEY ATTACHED ALL WET!
K-KITE? WITH K-KEY ATTACHED?!?

CRACK!
ZOP
IT'S PROFESSOR FRANK!
BLAM!
OOF! I'M PROFESSOR STEIN!
HE'S PROFESSOR FRANK!
PLOP!
AND THAT WOULD BE MASTER MERVIN!
WHAM!
I DON'T CARE IF THAT DOG OF YOURS TALKS IN 50 LANGUAGES, JORDAN! I WANT TO FORGET I EVER MET HIM!
MASTER MERVIN WANTS TO FORGET TOP DOG!
NOW SCRAM!
ORDINARY DOG NICE!
TOP DOG NOT NICE!
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU TWO!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE, TOP DOG?
HEH HEH! IT'S A LONG STORY, JOEY!
?
?
THE END

TOP DOG
PUPPY LOVE
BUMP!
HEY! WATCH IT, YOU DUMB MUTT!
RRRRRINGGGG
HELLO?
WATCH IT YOURSELF YOU OLD GROUCH!
WOOF?
THE END


TOP DOG IN THE CHECK-UP
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO FOR A CHECK-UP, JOEY? I FEEL FINE!
THAT WAS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS MOM MADE BEFORE SHE'D LET ME KEEP YOU, TOP DOG! NOW STOP TALKING AND START BARKING!
DR. A. FLEABITE VETERINARIAN
JOEY JORDAN AND TOP DOG TO SEE DR. FLEABITE!
HAVE A SEAT, JOEY! THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NEXT!
NOT NEXT TO THE HOUND! HOUNDS DEPRESS ME!
SHHH!
REMEMBER TO BE CAREFUL! NOBODY MUST FIND OUT THAT YOU CAN TALK!
PSST! IF YOU'RE GOING TO RACE THE BUNNY, MY DOUGH'S ON YOU!
? ? ?
1

POLLY WANTS A CRACKER!
A TALKING BIRD! THAT'S AMAZING!
DR. FLEABITE WILL SEE YOU NOW, JOEY!
THANK YOU!
WELL, WELL! HE'S A CUTIE! WHAT'S HIS NAME?
TOP DOG!
JOEY!
OKAY, TOP DOG! HOP UP HERE AND LET'S HAVE A LOOK!
HE DID SAY, "HOP"!
..HMMM..WHAT HUGE TEETH HE HAS!
THE BETTER TO BITE YOU WITH, MY DEAR!
BUT SINCE HE WAS A STRAY, WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN HE'S GOT HIS SHOTS!
SHOTS?
2

THIS WON'T HURT A BIT!
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!
?
OWCH!
W-WHO SAID THAT?!
ME! UH... OWCH! OWCH! I FEEL SORRY FOR MY DOG! OWCH!
THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU, JOEY! NOW FOR SOME PREVENTIVE MEDICINE!
SWALLOW THIS AND WE'RE ALL DONE!
GULP! THIS STUFF TASTES AWFUL!
I'VE GOT TO RINSE OUT MY MOUTH!
TOP DOG! COME BACK HERE!
CLICK!
AH... TOOTHPASTE AND A BRUSH!
BANG BANG
THAT'S STRANGE, JOEY! THE DOOR SEEMS TO BE STUCK!
3

STANO BACK, JOEY! I'M GOING TO BREAK IT DOWN!
CRASH!
GASP! HE'S FOAMING AT THE MOUTH!
MAD DOG! EVERYBODY OUT!
CRASH!
MAD DOG!
MEOW!
MAD DOG! MAD DOG! SQUAWKK!
YIP!
YIP!
YIP!

SNIFF SNIFF! TOOTHPASTE!
WAIT, DOCTOR! TOP DOG'S NOT MAD!
STAY AWAY FROM HIM, JOEY!
SEE? HE JUST BRUSHED... UH, I MEAN HE'S BEEN EATING TOOTHPASTE AGAIN!
YOU'RE A BRAVE BOY, JOEY!
AND I'M A DROWNED DOG!
EATING TOOTHPASTE IS A NO NO! BAD BOY!
A NO NO? GIVE ME A BREAK, DOC!
LATER...
THIS HAS BEEN A TOUGH DAY, JOEY! BRING ME SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR DINNER, OKAY?
STOP
YOU DESERVE IT!
I'VE BROUGHT ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEALS!
OH, BOY! ROAST BEEF A LA CANINE? STEAK IN BOW-DELAISE-SAUCE?
COMBO
?
?
?
!
TOOTHPASTE
JUST A LITTLE JOKE, T.D! HERE'S THE REAL FOOD!
HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU, KID, CHOMP CHOMP, YOU HAVE A WARPED SENSE OF HUMOR!
THE END

TOP DOG
THE SWIM OF THINGS
WHAT A GREAT DAY FOR A SWIM!
ZIP
ONE CAN REALLY MAKE TIME DOING THE CRAWL!
BUT FOR JUST RELAXING, I PREFER THE BACK STROKE!
CRICK CRACKLE SNAP
UH-OH! SOMEONE IS COMING!
OH, LOOK GEORGE! ISN'T IT CUTE THE WAY THAT DOG SWIMS?
YUP! BUT ALL THAT DOGS CAN DO IS THE DOG PADDLE!
SI-IGH!
SPLOOSH! SPLOOSH! SPLOOSH! SPLOOSH! SPLOOSH!
THE END

STAR SIGNALS

SWINGING OH WITH STAR!

★★★★★ It's me, again. I'll bet you think it's a real blast being the **Executive Editor** of *Star Comics*. You're probably convinced that I really enjoy spending most of my time working on the full color adventures of guys like *Heathcliff*, *Thundercats*, *Spider-Ham* and the *Care Bears*.

Well, you're right.

I really love my work. I have the greatest job in the whole world. People actually pay me to read comic books. Can you believe it?

This is what I've always wanted to do. For me, it's a dream come true. A dream which began many years ago . . .

THE DAY TOM STARTED DREAMING!

★★★★★ I don't remember the exact year or month. I think I was maybe eleven or twelve years old at the time. There was snow on the ground, and it must have been a Saturday afternoon because I wasn't at school. The thing I remember most was that I was bored. I wanted something interesting to happen. I was in the mood for adventure.

So, I went to the local soda shop, and checked their comic book rack. It was one of those [illegible] spinning things.

[illegible] desperately hoping to find something exciting to read. Suddenly, I noticed a flaming figure on one of the covers. He was the **Human Torch**, and it was the cover of *Fantastic Four #3*. A few minutes later, I spotted the **Torch** on another cover—*Fantastic Four #4*.

Needless to say, I bought both comics . . . and they were great! The most exciting comics I had ever seen!

TOM'S DREAM!

★★★★★ That's the day I started to dream. What did I dream about? Well, I wanted to write comic books! I guess I'm a very lucky person. Ever since I was eleven or twelve years old, I've always known what I wanted to do with my life. I've had to work real hard to get here, but it was all worth it. I'm very happy here at *Star Comics*, and I'm glad that I get to share my happiness with you.

DO YOU DREAM?

★★★★★ I'm sure a lot of people have asked you what you want to be when you grow up. Maybe you already have a dream. Maybe you don't. If you do, work hard for it. Don't let anything stop you from trying to reach it. My dream came true, maybe yours will too.

Maybe you don't have a dream yet. [illegible] the meantime, you can try a lot of different dreams . . . until you find one which fits . . . which suits you perfectly. Experiment! Try different things, and keep an open mind! You'll know your dream when it hits you. Maybe you'll be a doctor, an astronaut, an actor or a teacher. Whatever it is, I wish you luck!

JUST A THOUGHT!

★★★★★ There's always a chance that you share my dream. Maybe you're eleven or twelve years old right now. Maybe you just picked up a few *Star Comics*, and think they're the greatest things you've ever seen. Maybe someday, you'll be writing a column like this. If that's your dream, you'd better start working toward it. Read as many books as you can—real books as well as comics. Study hard in school. Ask your teachers to show you how to draw or write stories. Go for it!

By the way, if you ever do break into comics, stop by and say hello. I really enjoy talking to dreamers.

That's all for now! Until my next *Star Signals* . . .

Thanks for being there!

Tom D.

Tom DeFalco, S.T.A.R.
Executive Editor

CHECKLIST

STAR COMICS

- ☐ **PLANET TERRY #11**—Meet Terry's father, Vermin the Vile!
- ☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK #6**—Lost . . . in the strangest part of Fraggle Rock!
- ☐ **STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE #6**
- ☐ **THUNDERCATS #2**—What are the Berbils?
- ☐ **MISTY #2**—Guest starring Millie the Model!
- ☐ **WALLY THE WIZARD #11**
- ☐ **TOP DOG #6**—Beware of those mad scientists, Frank 'n' Stein!
- ☐ **HEATHCLIFF #6**—Special Christmas issue!

MARVEL COMICS

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- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #227**—The Kingpin finds a way to destroy DD, thanks to FRANK MILLER and DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI!
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #36**—The Beyonder offers Illyana salvation at a terrible price in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
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- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #5**
- ☐ **RED SONJA #12**
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- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #31**
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #75**
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- ☐ **X-MEN #202**—Rachel attempts to kill the Beyonder in this *Secret Wars II* [illegible]
- ☐ **ROM #75**—Concluding the saga of the Spaceknight!
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- ☐ **IRON MAN #203**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #111**—Meet that amazing spider-friend, the Beyonder, in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **THOR #364**—Thor croaks!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #13**
- ☐ **SECRET WARS II (Limited Series) #8**—The Beyonder decides to bring about a golden age on earth!!
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP INDEX #2**—Find out who Spidey's allies were in issues #24–50!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #1**—Cyclops, the Beast, Angel, and Iceman reunite with a surprise fifth member! This *double-sized* shocker of the year is brought to you by BOB LAYTON and JACKSON GUICE!
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- ☐ **X-MEN ANNUAL #9**